

## REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended the specification to delete reference therein to the claims and to insert appropriate headings therein.

Applicants have also amended the abstract to be in proper form. The claims have been amended to more clearly define applicants' invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the trigger unit is an electronic triggering unit for detonators (see, e.g., page 2, lines 22 - 27 of applicants' specification) and to insert therein the limitations similar to those recited in dependent claims 4 and 5.

Applicants have also amended claim 4 to be in independent form and have added claims 13 - 18 to further define their invention. See, e.g., the figure and the description thereof from page 5, line 32 to page 7, line 9.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the abstract, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the abstract in numbered sections 1 and 2 of the office action are requested.

Claims 1 and 4 - 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,932,979 to Sun. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

The rejected claims relate to an electronic triggering unit for initiating pyrotechnic elements, e.g., for detonators. As shown, by way of example only, in the Figure, such a triggering unit includes a control component 20, a rectifier 12, an energy store 15, a voltage regulator 13, a data coupler 11, a current limiter and a suppressor circuit 10. An object of the present invention is to provide an electronic triggering unit which makes possible a hitherto unknown variety of properties and functionality without changes in the hardware or the chip design being necessary. See, e.g., page 2, lines 4 - 9 of applicants' specification. This object is achieved,

according to the present invention, by using, as the control component, a programmable microprocessor with integrated program memory. Such a programmable microprocessor can be loaded with a program corresponding to the current requirements during production of the triggering unit or at least before use thereof, the triggering characteristic of the triggering unit being determined by the program to be loaded.

The Sun patent, on the other hand, relates to a pulse width modulation (PWM) speed-control apparatus for controlling the speed of a DC elevator. Even assuming, arguendo, that the apparatus of Sun includes a rectifier, an energy store, a voltage regulator, a data coupler, a current limiter, a suppressor circuit and a programmable microprocessor with integrated program memory, as alleged by the Examiner, the apparatus of Sun is clearly not an electronic triggering unit for detonators. More particularly, the program loaded in the system controller 4 of Sun does not determine any triggering characteristic of a triggering unit. For these reasons alone, the Sun patent does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. Moreover, despite the allegation made by the Examiner, it is not clear that the Sun patent discloses that the system controller is programmed with a program corresponding to the current requirements during production of the unit or at least before its use.

Further, with respect to claims 4 - 12, it should be recognized that these claims are directed to a method for operating a triggering unit while the Sun patent is directed to controlling the speed of elevators. Clearly, the method of claims 4 - 12 is not disclosed and would not have been suggested by Sun.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 4 - 12 are not anticipated by Sun.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of United States Patent No. 6,175,302 to Huang. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

The Huang patent relates to a tire pressure indicator and has absolutely nothing to do with an electronic triggering unit for detonators. Moreover, the tire pressure indicator of Huang is completely different than the speed control apparatus of Sun. Accordingly, it is submitted there would have been no motivation to combine the disparate teachings of Sun and Huang. Even if combined, it is submitted the combined teachings do not suggest an electronic triggering unit for detonators, much less an electronic triggering unit as presently claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 2 and 3 are patentable over the proposed combination of Sun and Huang.

It is submitted newly added claims 13 - 18 are also patentable over the prior art of record. With respect to new independent claim 14, the prior art does not suggest, inter alia, an electronic triggering unit, including a programmable microprocessor with integrated program memory, the microprocessor being loaded with a program for generating a trigger signal for triggering an ignition element before use of the triggering unit.

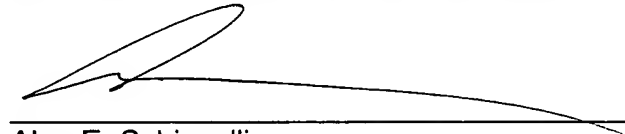
Applicants note the Examiner has cited a number of documents as being pertinent to applicants' disclosure. However, since these documents were not applied in rejecting claims formerly in the application, further discussion of these documents is deemed unnecessary.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 306.41404X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Schiavelli', is written over a horizontal line.

Alan E. Schiavelli  
Registration No. 32,087

AES/jla  
(703) 312-6600